

Children's Justice Act Committee
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Thursday, April 15, 2021
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Detective Thomas Pyles, Chair
Dr. Kerry Hannan, Vice Chair
Michelle Chudow
Elizabeth Hall
Ed Kilcullen
Joan Little
Diane Shaffer
KaeShawn Stewart
Joan Stine
Krista Trahan

Staff:

Angela Cromwell, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Kelly Gorman, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

I. Welcome

Detective Pyles called the meeting to order at approximately 1:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Gorman took attendance to ensure everyone on the call was marked as present.

III. Approval of Minutes (February 2021)

Minutes from the February 2021 meeting were provided to members. Ms. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Stine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Grant Updates

There was no grant update from Ms. Cromwell.

V. Three-Year Assessment Recommendations

Members reviewed the Three-Year Assessment recommendations. Members should submit their final feedback and edits to Ms. Gorman by April 20th. A final draft will be submitted with our federal Children Justice Act (CJA) application.

VI. Old/New Business

Ms. Gorman informed members that SCCAN is in the process of appointing a Judge to the Criminal or Civil Judge CJAC seat. Ms. Gorman will announce the new member when the appointment is finalized.

Ms. Wheeler opened a discussion with members on what challenges to expect pertaining to youth as we begin to come out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members identified several priority areas:

- With an expected increase in child abuse reports, extra support will be needed to serve youth and their families, specifically psychological support
- Expect an increase in youth online exploitation
 - Establish more activity centers or strategies to pull youth away from the internet
- Transition-aged youth you experiencing barriers in finding work and housing, resulting in a greater risk of being exploited
 - Transportation and food security continue to be a challenge for this group as well
- Not enough equipment in group homes to serve all those in need
 - Resulting in competition for time in homes
- Beginning to see a spike in severity in cases of physical abuse and torture
- Need for specialized treatment for Human Trafficking victims
- The mental health system is swamped
- Inconsistency in how courts are handling cases of child abuse and neglect
- Lack of information to front line workers
- Need more focus on family services and resources to serve the child and their family

Next Meeting

July 15, 2021

Grant Review Meeting

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Google Meet Link](#)